

The Impact of COVID-19: Where We Stand

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Arnold S. Monto, MD



Arnold S. Monto, MD, is the Thomas Francis, Jr., Collegiate Professor of Public Health and Professor of Epidemiology at The University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor. Dr. Monto chaired the US Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC)

meetings in December that led to Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

The major focus of Dr. Monto's work has been the epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of acute infections in the individual and the community. Respiratory infections, particularly influenza, have been a major interest to Dr. Monto, with special reference to the evaluation of vaccines in various populations and the assessment of the value of antivirals. He has worked on these issues in tropical and temperate regions. He led the studies of respiratory infection in Tecumseh, Michigan, a landmark study of infection in the community. He has studied various approaches to influenza vaccine use, particularly to control transmission of the virus in the community. Dr. Monto is involved in assessing the efficacy of various types of influenza vaccine in prophylaxis and antivirals in prophylaxis and therapy of influenza, including implications of resistance. He now heads an observational study of effectiveness of influenza vaccines in various settings, including households. His recent activities have included evaluation of face masks and hand hygiene in the control of influenza transmission and determination of efficacy of the traditional inactivated and live attenuated influenza vaccines.

Dr. Monto has been a member of the National Allergy and Infectious Diseases Advisory Council of the U.S. National Institutes of Health and is currently a member of the Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was past president of the American Epidemiological Society, the 2009 recipient of the Alexander Fleming Award of the Infectious Diseases Society of America for lifetime achievement, and the 2012 recipient of the Charles Merieux Award of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. He was a member of the emergency committee making recommendations to the World Health Organization during the most recent influenza pandemic.